

*Cover*

XI.  
THE  
242.40.38  
WITCHES *claret*  
OF  
HUNTINGDON.

Their Examinations and  
Confessions ; exactly taken by  
his Majesties Justices of Peace for that Coun-  
ty. Whereby will appeare how craftily  
and dangerously the Devill tempteth and  
seizeth on poore soules.

The Reader may make use hereof against  
Hypocrisie, anger, malice, swearing, Ido-  
latry, Lust, Covetousnesse, and other grievous  
sins, which occasioned this their downfall.

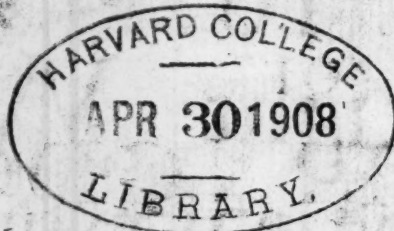
*John Davenport, of Huntingdon.*

*Profectio res stulta est nequitiae modus. Seneca.*

LONDON,  
Printed by W. WILSON, for RICHARD  
CLUTTERBUCK. 1646.

24245.38

494  
15



Gift of  
Prof. G. L. Kittredge



TO  
The Right Wor-  
shipfull the Iustices of the  
Peace for the County of  
HUNTINGTON.

Gentlemen,

**I** hath beene a common fault  
of late, to commend things to  
the Presse taken up by beare-  
say and report, which fre-  
quently prove untrue. This common course  
makes many trueths doubted, specially in dif-  
ficult discoveries. That this ensuing dis-  
course is true, I need no other witnesses then  
your selves: your paines was used in the dili-  
gent Examination of the Offenders, and the  
witnesses



## The Epistle Dedicatorie.

witnesses against them. You were present, and Judges at the Tryall and Conviction of them, more full and cleare confessions, more satisfactory Evidence, and a clearer Conviction, could not be in a case of this nature. By particular service, I was attendant in most of the Examinations: and waiting on you all at the Tryall, know what I assert to be true, and dare presume to make you Patrons hereof. Knowing your integrities most ready to attest truth, and to maintain and countenance herein

Your Honour and humble Servant,

JOHN DAVENPORT.

The





THE  
VVITCHES  
OF  
HVNTINGDON,

Their Examinations and Confessions  
exactly taken, &c.

---

*The Examination of Elizabeth Weed of great Catworth in the  
County of Huntingdon, Widow, taken upon the last day of March,  
1646. before Robert Bernard, and Nicholas Pedley, Esq;  
two of his Majesties Justices of the peace for this County.*

**S**He saith, that about one and twenty yeares since she  
being saying her Prayers in the evening about bed-  
time, there did appeare unto her three Spirits, one  
in the likenesse of a young man or boy, and the  
other two of two Puppies, the one white and the  
other black: and that which was in the shape of a young man  
did speak unto her, asking her, if shee would renounce God and  
Christ; shee answered, shee would. And the Devill then of-  
fer'd her, that hee would doe what mischief she should require  
him; and said she must covenant with him that he must have her  
soule at the end of one and twenty years, which she granted. And  
saith, that he came to her about a week after, about ten of the  
clock in the night, with a Paper, and asked her whether she were  
willing to seale the Covenant, shee said she was, then he told her  
it must be done with her bloud, and so pricked her under her left

arme, and made her bleed in the place : a great lump of flesh did rise, and hath encreased ever since, and he scribed therewith. And being demanded what light was there, she answered, none but the light of the Spirit, and presently he came to bed to her, and had the carnall knowledge of her, and so did divers times after, and faith, the other two Spirits did then, and at other times come into her bed also, and suckt upon other parts of her body where shee had Teats. Being demanded the name of the lesser Spirits, shee saith the name of the white one was *Lilly*, and the blacke one *Priscill*; and that the office of *Lilly* was to hurt man, woman, or coilde; and the office of *Priscill* was to hurt Cattell when she desired. And the office of the man-like Spirit was to lye with her carnally, when and as often as she desired, and that hee did lye with her in that manner very often; and that the Spirit *Lilly*, according to the Covenant, did kill the childe of Mr. *Henry Bedells* of *Catworth* aforesaid, as shee this Examinee desired him to do; and that she wisht him to doe the same when she was angrie; but doth not well remember for what: and faith, that about two or three dayes before that, shee sent the same *Lilly* to the said *Henry Bedells* commanding him to kill him, who returned and said hee had no power: and confesseth shee sent her said Spirit another time to doe some hurt to *Edward Musgrave* of *Catworth*, aforesaid, who likewise returned answer, he had no power: And that she sent her Spirit *Priscill* to kill two horses of the said *Edward Musgraves*, and one of *John Musgraves*, and to kill one Cow of *William Musgraves*, and one Cow of *Thomas Thorps* of the same Towne, which was done accordingly. And being demanded when the one and twenty yeares would be out, she answered about *Low-Sunday* next, to the best of her remembrance, and being further demanded what was the reason, she did duly resort to Church to Sermons, & also to the Ministers house to repetition, which Mr. *Poole* the Minister being present did affirme; shee saith, she was well pleased with his preaching, and had a desire to be rid of that unhappy burthen which was upon her. And further she saith not.

Signum

Elizabeth

Weed.

ROB. BERNARD.

The

*The Examination of John Winnick of Molfeworth in the said County, Labourer, taken upon the 11. day of Aprill, 1646. before Robert Bernard Esquire, one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for this County.*

**H**ee saith, that about 29. yeares since, the 29<sup>th</sup> yeare ending about Midsommer last past, he being a Batchellour, lived at Thropston with one *Buteman*, who then kept the Inne at the *George*, and withall kept Husbandry: this Examine being a servant to him in his husbandry, did then loose a purse with 7 s. in it, for which he suspected one in the Family. He saith that on a Friday being in the barne, making hay-bottles for his horses about noon, swearing, cursing, raging, and wishing to himselfe that some wise body (or Wizzard) would helpe him to his purse and money again: there appeared unto him a Spirit, blacke and shaggy, and having pawes like a Beare, but in bulk not fully so big as a Coney. The Spirit asked him what he ailed to be so sorrowfull, this Examine answered that he had lost a purse and money, and knew not how to come by it againe. The Spirit replied, if you will forsake God and Christ, and fall down & worship me for your God, I will help you to your purse and mony againe: This Examine said he would, and thereupon fell down upon his knees and held up his hands. Then the Spirit said, to morrow about this time of the day, you shall find your purse upon the floor where you are now making bottles, I will send it to you, and will also come my selfe. Whereupon this Examine told the Spirit he would meete him there, and receive it, & worship him. Whereupon at the time prefixed, this Examine went unto the place, and found his purse upon the floore and tooke it up, and looking afterwards into it, he found there all the money that was formerly lost: but before he had looked into it, the same Spirit appears unto him and said, there is your purse and your money in it: and then this Examine fell downe upon his knees and said, my Lord and God I thanke you. The said Spirit at that time



time brought with him two other Spirits, for shape, bignesse, & colour, the one like a white Cat, the other like a grey Coney : and while this Examine was upon his knees, the Beare Spirit spake to him, saying, you must worship these two Spirits as you worship me, and take them for your Gods also : then this Examine directed his bodie towards them, and call'd them his Lords and Gods. Then the Beare Spirit told him that when he dyed he must have his soule, whereunto this Examine yielded. Hee told him then also that they must suck of his body, to which this Examine also yielded, but they did not sucke at that time. The Beare Spirit promised him that he should never want victualls. The Cat Spirit that it would hurt cattel when he would desire it. And the Coney-like Spirit that it would hurt men when he desired. The bear spirit told him that it must have some of his blood wherewith to seale the Covenant, whereunto this Examine yeelded, and then the beare Spirit leapt upon his shoulder, and prickt him on the head, and from thence tooke blood : and after thus doing, the said three spirits vanisht away. The next day about noone, the said Spirits came to him while hee was in the field, and told him they were come to suck of his body, to which he yielded, and they suckt his body at the places where the marks are found, and from that time to this, they have come constantly to him once every 24. hours, sometimes by day, and most commonly by night. And being demanded what mischief he caused any of the said Spirits to do, he answered never any, onely hee sent his beare Spirit to provoke the Maid-servant of Mr. *Say* of *Molmesworth* to steale victualls for him out of her Masters house, which she did, and this Examine received the same.

The marke of  
*John Winnicke.*

ROB. BERNARD.

*The*

The examination of Francis Moore, taken before Nicholas Pedley Esq;  
one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for this County, the ninth day of  
April. 1646.

**T**His Examinee saith, that about eight yeares since she received a little blacke puppy from one *Margaret Simson* of great *Catworth*, which dog the said *Margaret* had in her bed with her, & took it thence when she gave it to the Examinee : The Examinee further saith, that the said *Margaret* told her, that she must keep that dogge all her life time ; and if she cursed any Cattell, & set the same dog upon them, they should presently dye, and the said *Margaret* told her that she had named it already, his name was *Pretty*.

And the said Examinee further saith, that about the same time one goodwife *Weed* gave her a white Cat, telling her, that if she would deny God, and affirme the same by her blood, then whomsoever she cursed and sent that Cat unto, they should dye shortly after. Whereupon this said Examinee saith that shee did deny God, and in affirmation thereof shee pricked her finger with a thorne, whence issued blood, which the Cat presently licked ; and the said good-wife *Weed* named the Cat *Tissy*. And the said Examinee further saith, that one *William Foster*, about sixteen yeares since, would have hanged two of her children for offering to take a piece of bread ; and for that cause about fixe yeares since she cursed the said *William Foster* ; whereupon the white Cat went to him, and he immediately fell sick, and lying in great paine for the space of seven or eight dayes, and then dyed : but being demanded what the Cat did to him, or what shee bid it doe, she saith she remembers not. And shee further saith, that about five yeares since, shee keeping Cowes in the field, a Cow of *Edward Hulls* went into the graine, she cursed her, and set *Pretty* on her, and she swelled and dyed shortly after ; and after that a Cow of one *Peter Brownes* went into the Corne, and shee likewise cursed her, and set *Pretty* on her, and she dyed within two

or three dayes after : and she further saith, that she killed the said Dog and Cat about a yeare since ; and yet after that the like Dog and Cat haunted her familiarly : and when she was apprehended, they crept under her cloathes, and tortured her so that she could not speake, to confesse freely, and more she saith not.

The Marke of

*Frances Moore.*

*Ni. Pedley.*

*The Information of Peter Slater of Little Catworth in the said County, Shepherd, taken upon oath, before Robert Bernard Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for this County, upon the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April. 1646.*

**T**His Informant saith, That his wife dying about one and twenty yeares since in Child-bed, and one Frances Moore being suspected for a Witch, & in custody: He went to her upon Friday last, and asked her, if she did his wife any harme? she answered she did, by cursing her. And he saith, his wife did of a sudden change and dye, after she had lain in a week; and that a little before this Informants wife was brought to bed, the said Frances Moore falling out with her, said, she hoped shee should never be untwin'd, as this Informant hath since called to minde.

**Signum**

**Peter Slater.**

**R. B. BERNARD.**



*The Information of William Searle of little Catworth, Yeoman,  
taken upon oath the said day and yeare.*

**T**His Informant saith, he was present when Frances Moore did confesse her selfe to be a Witch, and that shee had done much harme; and amongst other things, that she sent her Spirit Pretty to this Informants Capons, who did kill them; and hee saith, that she comming to bake a loafe at his house about three or four yeares since, being denyed, the Capons did fall a fluttering, and would never eate after. Also saith, that about the said time, she having a Hogge in his yard, some of his servants set a Dog on the same; for which she said she would bee revenged; and the next day one of his Hogs dyed.

Signum,

*William Searle.*

ROB. BERNARD.

*The Examination of Elizabeth Chandler of Keiston, Widow, taken  
the seventh day of Aprill, 1646. before Robert Bernard and Ni-  
cholas Pedley Esquires, two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace  
for this County.*

**S**Hee saith that something hath come to her five times within this little space, and that there was about a weekes space between their comming to her; and that the last time was upon Saturday seven-night last in a pulling and roaring manner. And

she saith that she found her body sore about the bottome of her belly after he was gone from her. She saith she did never willingly invoke or imploy the same, but hath prayed to God to deliver her therfrom. Being demanded whether she did heretofore strike a childe of Goodwife Darnells of Keiston, named Katherine, or send any Spirit to harm it, she denyeth the same: being asked whether she did heretofore use any means to spoile the Furmity of the said Goodwife Darnell or any other, she answered no; she confesseth that about two years since, having received some hard usage from the said Goodwife Darnell, by causing her to be duckt, shee did heartily desire to be revenged of her. And about halfe a yeare after, and ever since, she hath been troubled with the said roaring things. Being demanded whether she had not two Imps resorted to her, and that she named the same, calling the one *Beelzebub*, & the other *Trullibub*: She denyeth the same, only saith she did call a logg of wood *Beelzebub*, and a sticke *Trullibub*.

Signum,  
Elizabeth Chandler.

O. B. BERNARD.

---

*The Information of Mary Darnell the Wife of William Darnell of Keiston, Blacke-smith, taken upon oath the said seventh day of April, fore the said Justices.*

She saith that about a year since, she had a daughter named Katherine, which was then about the age of nine yeares, which childe was eating Furmity with another childe brought up by Elizabeth Chandler at the house of one William Browning in Keiston aforesaid: at which time the said two children fell out as she heard. And this Informants child did expresse when she came home that Goodwife Chandler had given it a boxe of the Eare, & complained of that care so long as it lived, which was untill that day

day 3 weeks : and during the time that it did lye ill, it did squeal and shreek out very often, that Goodwife *Chandler* did come to her and would kill her. And she saith, that about a yeare since she made some Furmity, and bid some Neighbours to the house : but when the same was taking up, it did continue boyling for an houre after it was taken from the fire, and she could not keepeit from running over, although she put it into great bowles, tubs, and other large vessells. And she hath heard *Lewis Carmell* say that she confessed she did cause it to be spoiled by Beelzebub, because she was not bid to it, nor had any part thereof.

Signum,  
Mary Darnell.

ROB. BERNARD.

*The examination of Ellen the Wife of William Shepheard of Molesworth in the said County, Labourer, taken the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill, 1646. before Robert Bernard and Nicholas Pedley, Esquires, two of His Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County.*

Shee saith, that about five yeares since, when shee was in her homsted at Molesworth, swearing and cursing about the discords of her children, there appeared unto her a Spirit, somewhat like a Rat, but not fully so big, of an iron-grey colour, and said you must goe with me, and she said, I will not, avoid Satan, and thereupon he went away. Shee saith, that within a short time after, going into the field, cursing, and fretting, and blaspheming, there appeared three Spirits more with the former in the fashion of Rats, of an iron-grey, and said, you must forsake God and Christ, and goe with me, and take those spirits for your Gods, and you shall have all happinesse, whereunto she consented. And moreover they said unto her, that when she dyed, they must have her body and soule, and said, they must have blood from her, which



which she granted, and thereupon they sucked her upon and about her hippes, and they have used very often to come to her since. Being demanded whether ever she imployed them to hurt any reasonable creature or beast, she saith she did not : And she saith that some of them did torment her this afternoon, since she was brought to Huntington to be examined. Being demanded whether she enjoyed any happinesse (as they promised) since they frequented her, she saith she did not, but doth intend to leave her former course of cursing and swearing.

Signum,

Ellen

Shepherd.

ROB. BERNARD, NIC. PEDLEY.

*The information of Thomas Becke of Bythorn in Com. Hunt. Yeoman, against Anne Desborough, taken upon oath before Nicholas Pedley Esquire, one of his Majesties Justices of Peace for the said County, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1646.*

**T**His Informant saith, that *Anne Desborough* Widow of Bythorn aforesaid, being apprehended upon suspicion of being a witch, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of this present April, he in the presence of Master *Coysh* and others, heard the said *Anne Desborough* (in answer to questions asked her) freely confesse, that about 30. yeares since, there appeared unto her a thing somewhat bigger then a mouse, of a browne colour, when she lived at *Titsmarsh* in the County of *Northampton*, she being in bed and asleep, which nipped her on the breast and awakened her, then it told her that it must have part of her soule : she prayed thsn to God, and it left her at that time, and the said Informant heard the said *Anne* further say, that about five or sixe dayes after, the same mouse appeared againe to her with another much like the former, it being a little lesse then the former, and had a white bellie : then the mouse that came first  
said

( 11 )

said, we must abide with you, and sucke your blood, she said that they should. About three dayes after both the mice came to her againe, and told her that she must forsake God and Christ : and when she dyed, they must have her soule, to all which she yielded: this Informant saith further, that he heard the said *Anne* confesse that she named one of the mice *Tib*, which promised her to hurt men, and she named the other *Jone*, which promised her to hurt Cattell when she wished it: and after the third time they kept not away from her above 24. houres together, but did frequent her, and familiarly suck on her bodie, untill she was apprehended.

*Thomas Becke.*

N I C: P E D L E Y.

---

*April the 8. day, Anno 1646.*

**A** *Nne Desborough* of Bythorn in the County of Huntington, confelleth, that about 30. yeares since, the first weeke of Cleane Lent, there appeared unto her a thing some-what bigger then a Mouse, of a brown colour, and of the likenesse of a mouse. This was while shee lived at Tichmarsh in the County of Northampton: she being there in bed, and in a dreame, the said likenesse then gave her a nip, and thereby awakened her out of her dreame, and then told her (when she was awakened) that it must have part of her soule; whereupon she was in a great feare, and gave him no answer, but prayed to God, and thereupon it vanished away from her. About five dayes after, the same Mouse appeared to her againe, bringing with it another Mouse, about the bignesse of an ordinary Mouse, or very little bigger, browne like the former, save only that this latter had some white about the belly, whereas the former was all browne. Then the Mouse that first appeared, said, we must sucke of your body. Shee yielded to them, and said, they should: upon her yielding they went to her, and sucked of her bodie, where the markes are found. The  
bigger

bigger mouse she called *Tib*, and the lesser *Jone*. *Tib* told her that she must forsake God and Christ, and take them for her Gods: telling her that when she dyed, they must have her soule, to all which she yielded. *Tib* promised her to hurt men if shee should desire. *Jone* promised her to hurt Cattell if shee should desire. Within two dayes after they appeared again: and ever after till shee was discovered, they appeared once every 24. houres.

This the said *Desborough* confessed on the first said day in the presence of me

Joseph Coysh Minister of the Word.

*The Examination of Jane Wallis of Keilton in the County of Huntington Spinster taken the 16<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill, 1646. before Sir Robert Osborn Knight, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Huntington.*

**T**HIS Examinee saith, as she was making of her bedde in her Chamber, there appeared in the shape of a man in blacke cloaths and blackish cloaths about sixe weeks past, and bid her good-morrow, and shee asked what his name was, and he said his name was *Blackeman*, and asked her if she were poore, and she said I; then he told her he would send one *Grissell* and *Greedigut* to her, that shall do any thing for her: Shee looking upon him, saw hee had ugly feete, and then she was very fearfull of him for that he would seem sometimes to be tall, and sometimes lesse, and suddenly vanished away.

And being demanded whether he lay with her, shee said hee would have lain with her, but shee would not suffer him: and after *Blackeman* was departed from her, within three or 4. dayes, *Grissell* and *Greedigut* came to her, in the shapes of dogges with great bristles of hogges haire upon their backs, and said to her they were come from *Blackeman* to do what she would command them, and did aske her if shee did want any thing, and they would



would fetch her any thing : and shee said shee lacked nothing : then they prayed her to give them some victuals, and she said she was poore and had none to give them, and so they departed: Yet she confessed that *Blackman*, *Grissell*, and *Greedigut* divers times came to her afterwards, and brought her two or three shillings at a time, and more saith not.

Signum

*Jane Willis.*

*April 14. 1646.*

**I**OANE WALLIS confessed to me, and *John Guylet* that shee had three Spirits, she called them *Black-man*, *Grissell*, and *Greedigut*, and that *Blackman* gave her the other two, and told her they should doe any thing for her that she should desire; she said *Blackman* came first to her, about a twelve-moneth since, like a man something ancient, in blackish cloathes, but he had ugly feet uncovered. Sometimes she said it was longer since he first came to her, and ever since he appeared in the like shape, but *Grissell*, and *Greedigut* did come in severall shapes, yet most commonly like hounds with Brissells on their backs. I asked her what use she put them to, and if any of them had the use of her body besides sucking; she said he would have had once, but shee denyed him: then presently of her selfe shee said, if I would not tell, shee would confesse, but she hoped I would love her never the worse, and then shee said that *Blackman* had the use of her body once, twice, and sometimes thrice in a week; but the other two onely sucked her where her marks are found; she said *Blackman* never sucked her; she would not confesse that she ever sent them to doe any harme, but said the filthy rough *Blackman* would send them; but what hurt they did shee confessed not to us. I asked her to what purpose shee let *Grissell* and *Greedigut* suck her if shee made no use of them? shee said, they would sometimes bring her money, two or three shillings at a time, and that was all they did

C.

for

for her; and once they told her they robb'd a man, and pulled him from his horse, and brought her some money.

All this she confessed to me before Dinner, and after Dinner she affirmed it all to be truth, but in the repeating she would seem to forget *Griss* and *Greed* names, but alwayes affirmed the same of *Blackman*; She said, she first would have had them sucked her breasts, but they would not, and chose the place themselves.

*Edw. Ma. Wingfeild.*

*John Guylatte.*

*The Examination of John Clarke Junior, of Keiston, in the County of Hunt. Labourer, taken before me John Castell, Esquire, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County, the 2<sup>d</sup>. day of May. 1646.*

**W**Ho saith, That true it is that hee did overtake one man and three women upon the Sabbath day last was seven-night, between *Stanwick* and *Raunce*, being about three miles from *Keistone*, whither this Examinee was going. But this Examinee denyeth that he ever told or said that he had any marks cut off, or that he had any place of meeting with any Witches, or that he had any consultation, or made any Compact with the Devill, or ever knew what belonged to any such matter. And further saith not.

**JOHN CASTELL.**

*The Information of John Browne of Raunce in the County of Northampton, Tailor, taken upon oath the second day of May, 1646. before me John Castell, Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Hunt.*

**W**Ho saith, That upon the Sabbath day last was seven-night, he (this Informant) comming from *Higdam-Ferris* to *Raunce* in the County of Northampton aforesaid, where he quartereth,

